



## MontCAS Montana Comprehensive Assessment System October 2005 Newsletter

### Good News Please Welcome

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#### **New column in *JUMP***

*Coach's Corner*

Linda Gardner from the Office of Public Instruction will provide tips on using the MontCAS website.

### **Coach's Corner: MontCAS Website Tips**

To reach the new, improved MontCAS web site, go to [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov). Just below the row of grey tabs along the top of the page is a dropdown list entitled Programs & Services of OPI. Click the dropdown arrow, Assessment (MontCAS) is under the bold heading **Education Data**.

**Use the menu on the left side of the page to navigate the MontCAS site.**

The Current Information selection contains the following choices:

**Overview** - The Brief Overview is a PDF document of handouts from the PowerPoint presentation that you can view or print. The PowerPoint Overview can be downloaded to your computer and used as a presentation or training tool; perhaps at a staff meeting.

**Calendar of Events** – This link takes you directly to the OPI electronic Assessment calendar. Click on any item on the calendar to view more detail about the event, including times, location and contact information.

**JUMP** – Clicking here takes you to a menu of current and past issues of the *JUMP* (Join Us in Measuring Progress) newsletter. Double click on your selected date to open a PDF version of the newsletter for viewing. Or, right click on the link and choose Save Target As... to save the PDF to your desktop and then print it.

**Contact Us/FAQ** – Judy Snow's phone number and email address are listed, along with a link to FAQ on the OPI Knowledge Database. You can find answers to frequently asked questions or ask a question of your own.

## Accommodations and Alternate Assessment for Spring 2006 Testing

Options for participation through accommodations and alternate assessments for MontCAS Phase 1 and MontCAS Phase 2 differ slightly. Below are tables with the options

	Phase 1 (NRT--Iowa Tests)	Phase 2 (CRT)
Standard Accommodations- - that do not alter the content of the test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be in an IEP, 504 or LEP plan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be in an IEP, 504, or LEP plan or provided to a student on an individual basis regularly during other testing or classroom assignments</li></ul>
Non standard Accommodations--do alter the content of the test. An example is reading the reading test to a student.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be in an IEP, 504, or LEP plan.</li><li>• If used, must administer Alternate Assessment Scales (AAS) in the content area of the non-standard accommodation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be in an IEP.</li></ul>
Alternate assessment	Alternate Assessment Scales (AAS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be in an IEP, 504, or LEP plan.</li><li>• May be in one or more content areas</li></ul>	CRT-Alternate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be in an IEP.</li><li>• Specifically for students who are significantly cognitively delayed*</li><li>• Must be taken in both content areas, Reading and Math</li><li>• Must be registered in advance with Measured Progress</li></ul>

\*Link to eligibility criteria for the CRT-Alternate:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/SpecED/forms/CRTeligCriteria.pdf>

## Assessment Presentations at MEA-MFT

Power Point slides of the following October 2005 presentations will be online by November 7, 2005 at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Assessment/train.html>

- Assessment Update
- Accommodations
- CRT Released Items and iAnalyze

## Spring 2006 MontCAS Testing Windows

Feb. 13 - March 29	Phase 2, CRT-Alternate	Grades 3-8 and 10 Reading and Math
March 6 - March 29	Phase 2, CRT	Grades 3-8 and 10 Reading and Math
March 22 - April 12	Phase 1, NRT and NRT Alternate Assessment Scales	Grades 4, 8, 11 Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science
The required National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests in reading and math in grades 4 and 8 are administered in odd years. The next administration of the required NAEP reading and math in grades 4 and 8 will be in 2007.		

## MontCAS, Phase 1

### Spring 2006 Iowa Tests Materials Delivery

Riverside Publishing Company, the test contractor for MontCAS, Phase 1--the Iowa Tests, needs input from test coordinators. The shipping contractor for Riverside is FedEx, however, Riverside needs to know which systems **do not** have delivery or pick up through FedEx in their communities. If you **do not** have access to FedEx delivery or pick up, please contact:

Brenda Granstrom, Riverside

800-767-8420 x6103 or [brenda\\_granstrom@hmco.com](mailto:brenda_granstrom@hmco.com) OR

Brittanny Black, OPI

406-444-4431 or [bblack@mt.gov](mailto:bblack@mt.gov)

### Bar Code Labels for the Iowa Tests

By November 7, 2005, Riverside Publishing Company will mail information to test coordinators about data and bar code labels. Because bar code labels are not included in the state contract, systems planning to use them need to make ordering and purchasing arrangements directly with Riverside.

- Any districts interested in using the barcode labels in 2006 may request a Form A Barcode information packet by contacting Customer Service at 800.323.9540 now or after information from Riverside arrives.
- Data files will be due to Riverside Publishing by January 9, 2006. Systems that order the bar code labels will receive instructions on compiling data files in Riverside Publishing's *Barcode User's Guide*.

## MontCAS, Phase 2

### Timelines for Data Entry and CRT-Alternate Registration

#### Tentative Data Entry Timeline for Spring 2006 CRT Test Administration

<b>November 2005</b>	<b>File formats for data entry will be posted online. Test coordinators will receive the link by email.</b>
December 2005	Test Coordinators receive coding directions with detailed data entry instructions.
December 5, 2005 - January 19, 2006	Data entry window for grades 3 - 8 and grade 10 (grade 10 is optional during this window)
January 20, 2006 - February 10, 2006	Optional data entry window for grade 10 only--for districts/schools not entering data for grade 10 during the December 5 - January 19 window.

#### Tentative Registration Timeline for Spring 2005 CRT -Alternate Test Administration

December 5, 2005 - January 19, 2006	CRT-Alternate Registration for grades 3-8 and grade 10. NOTE: Students in grade 10 who qualify for the CRT-Alternate must be registered during this window.
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### Montana Educators Continue to Participate in CRT and CRT-Alternate Test Development

Over 150 Montana educators met in Missoula and Helena October 10-12. In Missoula educators met for training on administering the Beta test of the 2006 CRT-Alternate in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7. In Helena, educators participated in item and bias review and benchmarking for the 2006 CRT in reading and math in grades 3,-8 and 10.

Thank you to these educators and their schools and systems for sharing their expertise.

### Released Item/iAnalyze Training

The Office of Public Instruction Assessment Office continues to offer training on the use of the 2005 CRT released items and the online data program *iAnalyze*. If your system is interested in hosting training in November, December, or January, please contact Brittany Black, 406-444-4431, [bblack@mt.gov](mailto:bblack@mt.gov)

Hosting involves providing internet access and space for educators in your system and from other systems in your region.

<p>Contact Information Office of Public Instruction Judy Snow, State Assessment Director 406-444-3656 <a href="mailto:jsnow@mt.gov">jsnow@mt.gov</a> Brittanny Black, Administrative Assistant 406-444-4431 <a href="mailto:bblack@mt.gov">bblack@mt.gov</a></p>
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